

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 have been pending.

Claims 1-20 are rejected.

In accordance with the foregoing, the claims are amended and new claims 21 -23 are added, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

PRIORITY:

The Office Action, at item 2, acknowledged priority under 35 U.S.C § 119(a)-(d), however, the Office Action Summary only checked box 12(a) and failed to indicate that a certified copy of the priority documents was received. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge that a certified copy of the foreign application was received in conjunction with the application filed July 30, 2003 in the subsequent Office Action by checking the appropriate Office Action Summary box 12.(a).1.

ITEM 4: CLAIMS 1 AND 6 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101 AS ALLEGEDLY BEING DIRECTED TO NON-STATUTORY SUBJECT MATTER.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 6 are amended, taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Applicants respectfully submit claims 1 and 6 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection is respectfully requested.

ITEM 6: CLAIMS 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18 AND 20 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS UNPATENTABLE OVER SUZUKI ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 7,047,237, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "SUZUKI," IN VIEW OF WEINBERG ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 6,144,962, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "WEINBERG."

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are allegedly unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Weinberg.

Independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 are amended, for clarity, to recite (i) "each file information having different generations before and after a modification by an editing process", and (ii) "a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects other of the two related file information, including the generation information." These features (i) and (ii) are fully supported by the original disclosure on page 16, line 29 to page 17, line 15 of the specification, for example.

The examiner acknowledges, on page 5 of the Office Action, that Suzuki fails to teach an icon storage configured to store icon data corresponding to the file information, and a processing unit configured to refer to the icon storage and to display on the display unit icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations.

However, Suzuki also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed embodiment's "file information." The information stored in the parts management system of Suzuki relates to parts forming an assembled (or completed) product, and the information (parts information) is not edited and is never modified within a system in accordance with Suzuki, because Suzuki merely discusses linking to information (parts information) of the assembled product. See, for example, Suzuki at column 1, lines 53-56, which recites, "an object of the present invention is to provide a system and method for rapidly and correctly checking the conformity of data on parts, especially part numbers, stored in a database system used for the part management."

In contrast, in the claimed embodiments, the file information has "different generations before and after a modification by an editing process." In other words, in one embodiment, a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects other of the two related file information, including the generation information. Therefore, the file information stored in the present invention is completely different from the information (parts information) stored in Suzuki. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Suzuki also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed "storage section, formed by hardware, and configured to store file information in units of generations, each file information having different generations before and after a modification by an editing process," as recited, for example, in claim 1.

The Office Action, at pages 5-6, relies on Weinberg to allegedly teach the claimed "an icon storage, formed by hardware, and configured to store icon data corresponding to the file information; and a processing unit configured to refer to the inter-file correspondence table and the icon storage and to display, on the display unit, icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations, and to display relationships of the file information corresponding to the icon data," as recited, for example, in amended claims 1.

However, Weinberg merely proposes a method of facilitating visualization of web sites, by displaying a graphical map of the web sites based on the tree representation, with the content objects of the web site represented as respective content object icons. See, for example, the abstract of Weinberg. The information stored in the system of Weinberg relates to the web sites, and the information (web site information) is not edited and is never modified within a system in accordance with Weinberg, because Weinberg merely discusses linking the information (web site information).

In contrast, in the claimed embodiments, the file information has “different generations before and after a modification by an editing process.” In other words, a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects the other of the two related file information, including the generation information. Therefore, the “file information” stored by the claimed embodiments is completely different from the information (web site information) stored in Weinberg. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Weinberg fails to disclose or suggest the claimed “processing unit configured to refer to the inter-file correspondence table and the icon storage and to display, on the display unit, icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations, and to display relationships of the file information corresponding to the icon data, wherein a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects the other of the two related file information, including the generation information,” as recited, for example, in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6, 11 and 16 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for similar reasons as independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be based upon Suzuki, Weinberg and any combination thereof, because Suzuki and Weinberg merely discuss storing part information and displaying a graphical map of a website, respectively, and neither Suzuki or Weinberg disclose or suggest to one skilled in the art to be modified to provide the claimed “storage section, formed by hardware, and **configured to store file information in units of generations**, each file information having different generations before and after a modification by an editing process,” “an inter-file correspondence table, formed by hardware, and configured to store corresponding relationships of the file information stored in the storage, **including generation information**,” and “a processing unit configured to refer to the inter-file correspondence table and the icon storage and to display, on the display unit, icon data of the file information stored in the storage section in units of generations, and **to display relationships of the file information corresponding to the icon data**, wherein a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects other of the two related file

information, including the generation information," as discussed above.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependence from the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims, and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

ITEM 8: CLAIMS 4, 9, 14 AND 19 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) AS UNPATENTABLE OVER SUZUKI, IN VIEW OF WEINBERG, IN FURTHER VIEW OF MILLER ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 6,661,437, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "MILLER."

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependence from the independent claims.

Furthermore, the Office Action merely cites to Miller as teaching the setting of the kind, width and color of the lines connecting the icon data differently for each generation, and fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of the base claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. Therefore Miller fails to correct the deficiencies in the rejection of the base independent claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims, and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS:

New claims 21 and 22 are dependent from independent claims 1 and 6 respectively. Applicants Respectfully submit that new claims 21 and 22 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependence from the independent claims.

New claim 23 recites:

23. (new) A method of CAD generation management, comprising:

storing a plurality of file information including respective generation information of each file information, each file information having different generations before and after a modification by an editing process;

interrelating the stored file information, based upon the respective generation information;

corresponding an icon for each file information; and

displaying the interrelationships of the stored file information using the respective corresponding icons,

wherein a modification of one of two related file information by the editing process affects other of the two related file information, including the generation information

Accordingly, Applicant's respectfully submit that claim 23 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art for similar reasons as independent claims 1, 6, 11 and 16.

Conclusion

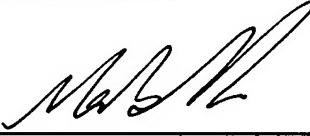
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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